

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub 10
1. A sheet sorting apparatus for adhering a marker to a predetermined sheet being output by an image processing apparatus, comprising:

a tape feeder for pulling out a tape having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one side edge;

a cutter for making the marker by cutting the end of the tape;

15 a guide for positioning the marker to a predetermined position on the sheet; and

a marker and sheet feeder for feeding the marker and sheet in a partially overlapping position,

20 wherein the marker is adhered to the sheet by a predetermined pressure force as they pass through the marker and sheet feeder.

2. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said marker is *under* adhered to the ~~lower~~ side of the sheet.

5 3. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a character mark printer for applying a predetermined color pattern or character to the marker; and

a printer controller for determining the character or pattern to print on the

a marker, so that the same character or pattern is printed on each *said* marker in a group
a 10 of sheets. *said*

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a 5 *Sub B2* 4. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1, ~~2, or 3~~, wherein the adhering position of the marker on the sheet may be changed.

a 5. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, or 4~~, further comprising a marker detector in a forward position of the sheet sorting apparatus.

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a *Sub B3* 6. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, or 5~~, further comprising a tape end detector on the path of the tape for signaling the exchange of the tape.

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7. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a single motor for driving the tape feeder, the cutter, the guide and the marker and sheet feeder.

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8. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tape feeder, the cutter, the guide and the marker and sheet feeder are driven by an external motor.

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9. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the character mark printer is an inkjet printer for applying the predetermined color pattern to the marker.

10. The sheet sorting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the character mark printer is a stamper for applying the predetermined character to the marker.

sub a3 5
11. A sheet sorting apparatus for adhering a marker to a predetermined sheet discharged from an image processing apparatus, comprising:

a tape feeder for pulling out a tape having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one side edge;

10 a guide for positioning the marker to a predetermined position on the sheet; and

a marker and sheet feeder for feeding the marker and sheet in a partially overlapping positioning,

wherein the marker is adhered to the sheet by a predetermined pressure force as they pass through the marker and sheet feeder.

5 12. An image processing apparatus comprising a sheet sorting apparatus for adhering a marker to a predetermined sheet discharged from the image processing apparatus, comprising:

a tape feeder for pulling out a tape having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one side edge;

10 a guide for positioning the marker to a predetermined position on the sheet; and

a marker and sheet feeder for feeding the marker and sheet in a partially overlapping position,

15 wherein the marker is adhered to the sheet by a predetermined pressure force as they pass through the marker and sheet feeder.

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13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising
a a tray for receiving ^{*the*} sheets being output by the image processing apparatus,
wherein at least one side of the tray is lower than the middle part of the tray.

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